CLAIMS

1. An image processing system for collecting images of an event and for distributing an image so taken to one or more clients, the system comprising a terminal associated with a camera, and a first editing facility; wherein

the terminal is configured to receive a master image file corresponding to an image of the event captured by the camera, to store the master image file, to create a preview image file from the master image file where the preview image file has a smaller file size than the master image file, and to transmit the preview image file to the first editing facility; and

the first editing facility is configured to transmit a preview image file to a client.

2. The image processing system of claim 1, wherein the first editing facility comprising an editing tool operable to facilitate editing an image associated with a preview image file and to amend the associated file in response thereto.

3. The image processing system of claim 1, wherein the terminal is configured to look in the master image file for data corresponding to a preview image in the master image file and, if such data is found, to extract the data to the preview image file.

4. The image processing system of claim 3 wherein, if data corresponding to a preview image is not found, the master image is resized and the data corresponding to the resized image is written to the preview image file.

5. The image processing system of claim 1, wherein the terminal is further configured to transmit the master image file to the first editing facility upon receiving a request from the first editing facility and the first editing facility is configured to facilitate editing a master image associated with a master image file and to amend the associated file in response thereto and to transmit a master image file to a client.

6. The image processing system of claim 1, further comprising a second editing facility configured to facilitate editing an image associated with a preview image file and to amend the associated file in response thereto and to transmit a preview image file to a client and wherein the first editing facility is operable to transmit preview image files to the second editing facility.

7. The image processing system of claim 6, wherein the first editing facility is further configured to transmit the master image file to the second editing facility upon receiving a request from the second editing facility and/or wherein the terminal is further configured to transmit the master image file to the second editing facility upon receiving a request from the second editing facility, and wherein the second editing station is configured to facilitate editing an image associated with a master image file and to amend the associated file in response thereto and to transmit a master image file to a client.

8. The image processing system of claim 6, wherein the second editing facility has an associated archive and wherein the first and/or second editing facilities are configured to send preview images to the archive.

9. The image processing system of claim 6, wherein the first and/or second editing facilities are configured to send master images to the archive.

10. The image processing system of claim 6, further comprising an output server through which image files are sent for onward transmission to a client.

11. The image processing system of claim 10, wherein the output server is configured to regulate the delivery of image files to one or more clients.

12. The image processing system of claim 6, wherein either the first or second editing facility is configured to create MMS messages that include preview images.

13. The photographic processing system of claim 12, wherein the editing facility is configured to receive a file containing text describing an event, to search the text for pre-defined terms, to create a new file containing text and images upon finding a pre-defined term and to transmit the new file to client.

14. The image processing system of claim 13, wherein the editing facility is configured automatically to extract text

from the incoming text file and to write the text to the new file.

15. The image processing system of claim 13, wherein the editing facility is configured automatically to retrieve an image from an archive and to write the image to the new file.

16. The image processing system of claim 6, wherein either the first or second editing facility is configured to create http slide shows that include preview images.

17. An image processing system for collecting images of an event taken by a camera and for distributing an image so obtained to one or more clients, the system comprising:

a terminal and first and second editing facilities; wherein

the terminal is operable to receive and store an image of the event as an electronic image file and to transmit the image file to the first editing facility;

the first editing facility is local to the event and is configured

(a) to receive the image file transmitted by the terminal,

(b) to determine a suitable editing station for displaying the image associated with the image file, and to display the image at the editing station,

(c) to facilitate selection of the image displayed at the editing station,

(d) to facilitate selection of an output destination for the selected image file wherein available output destinations

include the second editing facility and one or more clients, and

(e) to transmit the selected file to the selected output destination; and

the second editing facility is remote from the event and is configured

(a) to receive an image file transmitted by the first editing facility,

(b) to display the image associated with the image file at an editing station,

(c) to facilitate selection of the displayed image,

(d) to facilitate editing of the selected image,

(e) to facilitate selection of an output destination for the selected image file, wherein available output destinations include one or more clients, and

(f) to transmit the selected file to the selected output destination.

18. A method of processing images taken at an event and for distributing an image so captured to one or more clients, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic image of the event as a master image file;

storing the master image file in a memory located at the camera location;

creating a preview image file from the master image file, the preview image file being of a smaller file size than the master image file;

transmitting the preview image file to a first editing facility; and

transmitting the preview image file to a client.

19. The method of claim 18, comprising further steps of editing an image associated with the preview image file and amending the associated file in response thereto.

20. The method of claim 18, comprising the steps of checking the master image file for data corresponding to a preview image in the full image file and, if such data is found, extracting the data to the preview image file.

21. The method of claim 20 comprising the steps of, where data corresponding to a preview image is not found, resizing the master image and writing the data corresponding to the resized image to the preview image file.

22. The method of claim 18, comprising the further steps of sending a request for a master image file from the first editing facility, transmitting the master image file from the memory to the first editing facility in response thereto, editing the image associated with the master image file at the first editing facility, amending the associated file in response to the editing and transmitting a master image file to a client.

23. The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of transmitting preview image files from the first editing facility to the second editing facility, editing the image associated with the preview image file at the second editing station and amending the associated file in response thereto,

and transmitting a preview image file to a client from the second editing facility.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of transmitting the master image file to the second editing facility from the first editing facility and/or the memory upon receiving a request from the second editing facility, editing the image associated with the master image file at the second editing facility and amending the associated file in response thereto, and transmitting a master image file to a client.

25. The method of claim 23, comprising the step of sending preview image files to an archive associated with the second editing facility.

26. The method of claim 23, master image files to an archive associated with the second editing facility.

27. The method of claim 18, further comprising sending image filed to an output server for onward transmission to a client.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the output server regulates the delivery of image files to one or more clients.

29. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of creating an MMS message that includes preview images.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of receiving a file containing text describing an event,

searching the text for pre-defined terms, creating a new file containing text and images upon finding a pre-defined term and transmitting the new
file to client.

31. The method of claim 30, comprising the step of automatically extracting text from the incoming text file to the new file.

32. The method of claim 30, comprising the step of automatically extracting an image from an archive to the new file.

33. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of creating http slide shows that include preview images.

34. An image processing facility operable to receive a preview image file containing images of an event, to facilitate selection of an output destination for the preview image file wherein available output destinations include a further image processing facility and one or more clients, and to transmit the preview image file to the selected output destination.

35. A data file processing system for collecting data files containing data relating to an event and for distributing such data to one or more clients, the system comprising a terminal and a first editing facility; wherein

the terminal is configured to receive a master data file corresponding to data relating to the event, to store the

master data file, to create a preview data file from the master image file where the preview data file has a smaller file size than the master data file, and is configured to transmit the preview data file to the first editing facility; and

the first editing facility is configured to transmit the preview data file to a client.

36. A computer when programmed:

to receive image files containing an image of an event;

to assign image files to one of a plurality of viewing lanes;

to display the plurality of viewing lanes, each viewing lane being displayed in a window and including the image or images associated with one or more image files assigned to that viewing lane;

to facilitate selection of an image from at least one of the plurality of viewing lanes and to display an enlarged view of the selected image;

to facilitate selection of a client; and

to send the image file associated with the selected image to the selected client.

37. The computer of claim 35, when programmed to facilitate editing of a selected image.

38. The computer of claim 36, when programmed to facilitate creation of a MMS message.

39. The computer of claim 36, when programmed to facilitate creation of a http slide show.

40. A computer program comprising program instructions for causing a computer to operate in accordance with any of claim 36.

41. A computer readable medium having a computer program according to claim 40 recorded thereon.